

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a multicast transmission system comprising a first station and a plurality of second stations, the method comprising the steps of:

at the first station, transmitting data;

at each of the second stations:

receiving the data;

determining whether the received data is fully decodable;

if the data is not fully decodable, transmitting a reply signal; and

at the first station:

receiving the reply signal from at least one of the second stations, and

in response to receiving the reply signal, retransmitting at least a portion of the data;

further comprising

the reply signal being devoid of an indication of ~~the~~ an identity of the transmitting second station;

at the first station:

selecting, for retransmitting the data, between a dedicated mode in which the data is addressed to one of the second stations and a broadcast mode in which the data is broadcast to a plurality of the second stations;

in response to selecting the dedicated mode and prior to the retransmission, transmitting a further signal for further processing;

at each of the second stations which transmitted the reply signal, in response to receiving the further signal, transmitting an indication of its an identity of the further signal only for the further processing; and

at the first station, receiving the indication of identity and employing the indication of identity to address the retransmission to one of the second stations.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising estimating ~~the~~ a number of second stations transmitting the reply signal and selecting the mode dependent on the estimate.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reply signal is transmitted in an access slot indicative of a portion of data to be retransmitted.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reply signal comprises a signature indicative of a portion of data to be retransmitted.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the further signal comprises a positive acknowledgement.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmitted indication of identity comprises a message transmitted on a random access channel having an access service class (ASC) different from the ASC of the reply signal.

7. (Currently Amended) A communication station for use in a multicast transmission system comprising a plurality of second stations, the communication station comprising:

means for transmitting data;

means for receiving a reply signal from at least one of the second stations, ~~and~~

means responsive to receiving the reply signal for retransmitting at least a portion of the data, the reply signal being devoid of an indication of an identity of the second stations;

further comprising:

means for selecting, for retransmitting the data, between a dedicated mode in which the data is addressed to one of the second stations and a broadcast mode in which the data is broadcast to a plurality of the second stations;

means responsive to selecting the dedicated mode for transmitting a further signal for further processing;

means for receiving an indication of identity ~~transmitted by a second station~~ of the further signal only for the further processing; and

means for employing the indication of identity to address the retransmission to one of the second stations.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The communication station as claimed in claim 7, wherein the means for selecting the mode is adapted to estimate ~~the~~ a number of second stations transmitting the reply signal and to select the mode dependent on the estimate.

9. (Currently Amended) A communication station for use in a multicast transmission system, the communication station comprising:

means for receiving data;

means for determining whether the received data is fully decodable; ~~and~~

means responsive to the data not being fully decodable for transmitting a reply signal devoid of an indication of identity of the communication station; ~~and~~

means responsive to receiving a further signal for transmitting an indication of identity of the communication station; and

means for receiving a retransmission of at least a portion of the data whether addressed to the communication station or whether broadcast;

wherein an identity of a signal is retransmitted for further processing only if the dedicated mode was selected.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The communication station as claimed in claim 9, wherein the means for transmitting the reply signal is adapted to indicate a portion of the data for which retransmission is requested by selection from a plurality of at least one of a time slot and a signature.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The multicast transmission system comprising a first station in accordance with claim 7 and a plurality of second stations.